

To be agreed by CPC Committee at 9th June meeting

Birtley St. Joseph's Church Pastoral Council Meeting

Sunday 12th May 2024

Present

Bernadette Bartlett,	BB	Mick Davison	MD
Hilda Fraser	HF	Peter Lavery (Deacon)	PL
Peter Monaghan (Minutes)	PM	Pauline Pestell	PP
Margaret Taylor	MT	Catherine Tumelty	CT

Apologies

Hannah Bartlett	HB	Doreen Cantwell,	DC
Michelle Irwin	MI	Tom Quigley (Chair)	TQ
Fr Martin Wheaton	FrMW		

CT opened the meeting with a prayer.

PL as acting Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said that Darren Kelsey had resigned from the CPC due to work commitments.

The minutes of the meeting from 14th April 2024 were agreed.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 14th April 2024.

Reconciliation

CT said that she had written to the Partnership Bulletin Team and they had agreed to put an entry for the Reconciliation time at St Joseph's in the newsletter for the weekend of 18/19 May. PL said that he would put an entry in the Priests Calendar for Reconciliation to be given after the midday Thursday Mass.

First Holy Communions

PL said that First Holy Communions for St Joseph's School due to take place during the visit of Bishop Stephen to the Partnership over the weekend of May 17-19 while the First Holy Communions for St Benet's would take place a few weeks later. He said that the children had been rehearsing during the past week and would be celebrating their First Holy Communions at 10:00am on Saturday May 18th with a celebratory breakfast afterwards in the Parish Centre.

Confirmations 2025

PL said that Fr Michael Griffiths was currently unwell so he had been unable to ask him if St Joseph's could join in the confirmation process with St Cuthbert's and St Bede's Sacriston, which are planned for the Autumn.

Celebration of the Lamesley Martyrs

MD said that Canon Paul Farrer would not be available to say Mass for the Lamesley Martyrs on July 24th the Feast of the Martyrs of the Diocese as he was on a priests retreat that week He said that he hoped that an alternative date might be found.

Visit by Bishop Stephen - Saturday 18th May

PL said that Bishop Stephen would be saying the evening Mass on Saturday 18th May and would be meeting the people of the Parish and the wider Partnership afterwards in the Parish Centre. MD said that Bishop Stephen would be saying the Mass for Pentecost Sunday on that day rather than the Pentecost Vigil Mass. He said that the Lourdes Youth Group would be providing tea, coffee and cake in the Parish Centre after the Mass. PL was asked if it was ok for parishioners to bring cakes too and he said that would be possible. MD said that the room had been booked and he hoped for a good turnout as St Joseph's School were promoting it on their website.

SVP Mass for the Housebound - Sat 22nd June

PM said that preparations were well under way for the SVP Mass for the Housebound on Saturday 22nd June. He said that letters had been sent to all Eucharistic Ministers and that the SVP were being helped by the Lourdes Ladies with the catering. He said that taxis would be provided where necessary to help people get to Mass and that there would be a raffle and bingo at the tea. He said that he had been liaising with St Joseph's Junior School and it was hoped that some of the Mini Vinnies from the school would be able to attend

Annual General Meeting - Tuesday 25th June 2024

PL said that this would be advertised in the St Joseph's Newsletter. He said that Bishop Stephen would be putting out a statement shortly and it could be discussed at the AGM. MD said that the Bishop's statement would be about what he sees as the future mission of the Diocese and agreed that the AGM would provide a perfect opportunity to discuss it. It was suggested that it would be a good idea to get a guest speaker to come and MD suggested that Fr Michael Griffiths could be asked as he was the Dean for the Partnership. MD said that there could also be reports from the various parish groups and also reports on the Parish Finance and Journey of Faith

Updates on Insurance Claims

PL said that the Parish had been in the unfortunate position of having to make several insurance claims recently and itemised them.

Front Wall

This had been knocked down by a van but CCTV had picked the incident up. The wall had now been repaired but the invoice had been sent to the parish to pay rather than the insurance company. MD said that he was rather at a loss about why the Diocese had allowed this as the parish was now having to claim the money back from the insurance company

Belgian Cemetery

A lorry carrying concrete had recently crashed through the railings at the Belgian Cemetery breaking them and had also uprooted headstones.

Photographs had been taken, the lorry identified and the Diocese had the matter in hand. PL said that we now had to wait for the repairs to be done.

Garden of Remembrance

The listed wall at the proposed site of the Garden of Remembrance had collapsed. There had previously been a problem with trees and as the land was council owned they had taken the trees down but left the roots in. The bad weather however had caused the ground to stay wet, the roots had pushed the wall down and it was only by good fortune that no-one was hurt. A claim had now been made through the Diocese against the Council and repairs would be expensive as there was a

lot of damage under the collapsed wall. PL said that once the work had been done, the parish could go ahead with the proposed plans for the Garden of Remembrance.

School Sports Field

The people in the bungalow next to the School Sports Field had encroached upon the field, levelled and fenced it and cut down trees. The encroachment had been discovered and once it had been established that it was parish land, had been photographed and reported to the Diocese.

Pastoral Care of Parish Schools

St Benet's Update

BB said that the main school was planning to move back to the St Benet's site after May half term. She said that remedial work had been done to make the buildings safe. She said that FrMW had Masses planned after the school returned.

Mrs Canham the deputy head had recently tendered her resignation and was planning on moving back to Northern Ireland.

PL said that St Benet's was on the list for a new school but no-one knew when that would be. He said that SATS would be held shortly and when CT asked if adjustments would be made for them at St Benet's and for higher exams at St Leonard's, he replied in the negative. BB said that there had been great work done by the staff at St Benet's over the last few months and CT suggested that the CPC could voice their appreciation over what the staff had done and what the staff and the children had been through. The meeting duly voiced its appreciation.

St Joseph's

PL said that both schools were due to have high admission numbers following the summer break. He said that FrMW helps both schools with Masses and visits.

Prayers for next meeting

PP offered to do the prayers for the next meeting.

Any Other Business

Greeters

PP queried as to whether "Greeters" were required for weekday Masses. The role had been important during the pandemic but things had now changed and the role seemed superfluous as the altar servers now opened the church before masses and closed it afterwards. MT agreed that "Greeters" probably weren't needed for weekday Masses but were required for Saturday evenings. She said that the pool of "Greeters" had now reduced a lot and rather than have a small group to pick from for the Saturday evening, she would like more volunteers to join the pool. PL said that he felt that "Greeting" on weekdays served a purpose but one person was quite sufficient for the job. He said that an appeal could be made in the Bulletin for more "Greeters" to join the existing pool.

Date and Time of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for Sunday 9th June at 7pm.

CT closed the meeting with a prayer.